

What is claimed is:

1. A method for routing a call to a called party's landline or wireless communication unit, said method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit; then

(b) automatically routing a call to a called party's landline communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined unavailable in step (a); and

10 (c) automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined available in step (a).

15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically routing the call to the called party's landline communication unit in response to a calling party using the called party's wireless communication unit.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises the step of automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit in response to receiving, from a calling party, a destination number associated with the called party's landline communication unit.

25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises the step of automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit in response to receiving, from a calling party, a destination number associated with the called party's wireless communication unit.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises the step of automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit in response to receiving, from a calling party, a destination number independent of a number associated with either the called party's wireless or landline communication unit.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises the step of
(a1) sending a location request to a home location register; and
(a2) analyzing a response to the location request.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises the step of automatically routing a call to a called party's landline communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined inactive, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined active.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises the step of automatically routing a call to a called party's landline communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined busy, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined not busy.

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9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing the called party's wireless communication unit with an indication that a call is automatically being routed to the called party's wireless communication unit.

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10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing the called party's wireless communication unit with a distinctive ring in response to automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit.

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11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of playing a message to a calling party before the call is automatically routed.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using an interactive voice response system to disable performance of steps (a)-(c).

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using a voice-mail system to receive messages from the landline communication unit and the wireless communication unit.

14. A system for routing a call to a called party's landline or wireless communication unit, said system comprising:

first means for automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit;

second means for automatically routing a call to a called party's landline communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined unavailable; and

third means for automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined available.

15. A system for routing a call to a landline or wireless communication unit, said system comprising:

a service control point operative to automatically determine an availability of said wireless communication unit in response to a query; and

a signal switching point coupled with the service control point, the signal switching point being operative to send said query to the service control point, automatically route a call to said landline communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined unavailable, and automatically route a call to said wireless communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined available.

16. The invention of claim 15 further comprising a database, coupled with the service control point, comprising availability information of said wireless communication unit.

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17. The invention of claim 16, wherein the database comprises a home location register.

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18. The invention of claim 15, wherein the signal switching point is operative to automatically route a call to said landline communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined inactive and operative to automatically route a call to said wireless communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined active.

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19. The invention of claim 15, wherein the signal switching point is operative to automatically route a call to said landline communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined busy and operative to automatically route a call to said wireless communication unit in response to said wireless communication unit being determined not busy.

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20. The invention of claim 15, wherein the signal switching point is operative to send said query to the service control point in response to receiving a destination number of said landline communication unit.

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21. The invention of claim 15, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to provide said wireless communication unit with an indication that a call is automatically being routed to the called party's wireless communication unit.

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22. The invention of claim 15, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to play a message to a calling party while awaiting a response from the service control point.

23. The invention of claim 15 further comprising a voice-mail system coupled with the signal switching point and operative to receive messages from said landline communication unit and said wireless communication unit.

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24. The invention of claim 15 further comprising an interactive voice response system coupled with the signal switching point and operative to deactivate a transmission of said query to the service control point.

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25. A computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for routing a call to a called party's landline or wireless communication unit, the computer readable program code comprising:

first computer readable program code for automatically determining an availability of a called party's wireless communication unit;

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second computer readable program code for automatically routing a call to a called party's landline communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined unavailable; and

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third computer readable program code for automatically routing the call to the called party's wireless communication unit in response to the called party's wireless communication unit being determined available.

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